AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing an autoimmune disease, or a predisposition to said disease, in a mammal comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a first blood sample from a first mammal;

b) obtaining a second blood sample from a second mammal of the same species as said first mammal, wherein said second mammal does not have, or is not at risk for developing, said autoimmune disease;

c) contacting said first blood sample and said second blood sample with ~~a composition comprising~~ a tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha inducing substance, a TNF-alpha agonist, or TNF-alpha, wherein said TNF-alpha inducing substance, TNF-alpha agonist, or TNF-alpha ~~composition~~ preferentially decreases the viability of leukocytes and wherein both of said first and second samples are contacted with said TNF-alpha inducing substance, TNF-alpha agonist, or TNF-alpha ~~composition~~ in the same manner; and

d) measuring the viability of leukocytes in said first blood sample and in said second blood sample, wherein a statistically significant decrease in the leukocyte viability in said first sample relative to the leukocyte viability in said second sample indicates that said first mammal has, or is predisposed to developing, said autoimmune disease.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said autoimmune disease is Alopecia, Areata, Ankylosing Spondylitis, Antiphospholipid Syndrome, Autoimmune Addison's Disease, Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia, Autoimmune Hepatitis, Behcet's Disease, Bullous Pemphigoid, Cardiomyopathy, Celiac Sprue-Dermatitis, Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome (CFIDS), Chronic Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy, Churg-Strauss Syndrome, Cicatricial Pemphigoid, CREST Syndrome, Cold Agglutinin Disease, Crohn's

Disease, Discoid Lupus, Essential Mixed Cryoglobulinemia, Fibromyalgia-Fibromyositis, Graves' Disease, Guillain-Barré, Hashimoto's Thyroiditis, Hypothyroidism, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (ITP), IgA Nephropathy, Insulin dependent Diabetes, Juvenile Arthritis, Lichen Planus, Lupus, Ménière's Disease, Mixed Connective Tissue Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Myasthenia Gravis, Pemphigus Vulgaris, Pernicious Anemia, Polyarteritis Nodosa, Polychondritis, Polyglandular Syndromes, Polymyalgia Rheumatica, Polymyositis and Dermatomyositis, Primary Agammaglobulinemia, Primary Biliary Cirrhosis, Psoriasis, Raynaud's Phenomenon, Reiter's Syndrome, Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Sarcoidosis, Scleroderma, Sjögren's Syndrome, Stiffman Syndrome, Takayasu Arteritis, Temporal Arteritis/Giant Cell Arteritis, Ulcerative Colitis, Uveitis, Vasculitis, Vitiligo, or Wegener's Granulomatosis.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said autoimmune disease is Insulin-dependent Diabetes.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said leukocytes overexpress a receptor for FasL, TNF-alpha, IL-1beta, IL-6, IL-12, and IFN-gamma.

16-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said mammal is a human.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said TNF-alpha agonist is a TNF-alpha receptor agonist.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said TNF-alpha receptor agonist ~~compound~~ is a TNF-alpha receptor agonist antibody.

22-55 (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said TNF-alpha receptor agonist antibody is a humanized or human monoclonal antibody.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said TNF-alpha receptor agonist antibody is a humanized or human monoclonal antibody.

58. (New) A method for diagnosing an autoimmune disease, or a predisposition to said disease, in a mammal comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a sample comprising leukocytes from a first mammal that has said disease, or is at risk for developing said disease, with a tumor necrosis factor (TNF)-alpha inducing substance, a TNF-alpha agonist, or TNF-alpha; and

b) measuring the viability of said leukocytes, wherein a statistically significant decrease in the viability of said leukocytes indicates that said first mammal has or is predisposed to develop said disease.